

This bill was estimated by the Joint Committee on Taxation to cost \$48.7 billion over 10 years with not offsets. Sponsors of H.R. 2990 claim that it will be paid for out of the projected budget surplus, which is based upon the assumption that Congress will abide by the spending caps enacted in the 1997 budget agreement. The Congressional Budget Office, however, has estimated that Congress has already voted to increase spending by at least \$30 billion over the caps for fiscal year 2000, which will require tapping into the Social Security Trust Fund. I voted against H.R. 2990 because I made a commitment not to spend one penny of the Social Security surplus.

Let me make one thing clear—I do not believe that legislation to protect patients and efforts to make health care more accessible are mutually exclusive. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I am working hard to expand health coverage to the 43 million Americans who lack it, since more than 60% of the uninsured have one thing in common—they are either self-employed, or their primary breadwinner is employed by a small business that cannot afford to provide health benefits.

To this end, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1496, the Small Business Access and Choice for Entrepreneurs Act. This legislation would do two things: 1) Offer immediate 100% health insurance deductibility for the self-employed; and 2) strengthen and expand Association Health Plans (AHPs) for small business owners. AHPs would allow small businesses and the self-employed to join together to obtain the same economics of scale, purchasing clout, and administrative efficiencies from which large health insurance purchasers currently benefit. AHPs will give small employers the ability to design more affordable benefit options, offer workers more choices, and promote greater competition in the health insurance market.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure adequate patient protections and access to health care for all Americans.

KANSAS STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
October 5, 1999.

Congressman DENNIS MOORE,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MOORE: On behalf of organizations concerned about health care in our state, we are writing to ask your support of the bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act (HR 2723) by Charlie Norwood and others.

It is our understanding that this important legislation will be up for consideration the week of October 4. We ask that you support this legislation because it provides the best patient protection by addressing these important elements:

- Allows patients to obtain the medical care they need
- Protects nurses, physicians and other health care professionals who advocate for their patients
- Holds health care plans accountable by removing the ERISA preemption
- Has a strong external review component
- Determines "medical necessity" according to generally accepted standards of medical practice by a prudent physician
- Prohibits gag clauses and practices
- Provides accurate disclosure of costs and benefits

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Kansans, just like the majority of Americans, want strong patient protections from managed care. H.R. 2723 represents your best opportunity to provide these protections. Please don't vary from this approach.

Thank you,

Respectfully Submitted,
CHIP WHEELAN,
Kansas Association of Osteopathic
Medicine.

KEVIN ROBERTSON,
Kansas Dental Association.

JERRY SLAUGHTER,
Kansas Medical Society.

BOB WILLIAMS,
Kansas Pharmacists Association.

TERRI ROBERTS,
Kansas State Nurses Association.

SKY WESTERLUND,
National Association of Social Workers,
Kansas Chapter.

TERRY HUMPHREY,
Kansas Trial Lawyers Association.

TRIBUTE TO GREG MAJORS, A DEDICATED INDIVIDUAL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I take a moment to recognize Greg Majors who has routinely gone above and beyond the usual duties to make his business and community a better place. He has recently been awarded the 1999 Sam Walton Business Leader Award, which honors local business people who best exemplify the principles of Wal Mart founder, Sam Walton.

Greg Majors is a driven man who has many positive ideas for change and improvement. He is involved in many organizations which are both business and community oriented. For the past nineteen years he has been with Norwest Banks. The last eight he has spent in Montrose as manager of Business Banking. There he is revered among his employees as an honest and likeable man.

In addition, Greg has served as director of MEDC for the past four years, two of which he served as president. He has also been the director of the Montrose Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for the past three years. As if the aforementioned activities are not enough for one man, Greg also serves on the board of trustees of the Montrose United Methodist Church and for the past six years he has been an active member of the Rotary Club.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Greg Majors is a valuable asset to the community of Montrose. So, it is with this that I say thank you to this man on behalf of the people of Western Colorado for his dedicated service and I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY SHERIFF ERIC ANDREW THACH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congresswoman

MARY BONO, with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen deputy sheriff from Sun City, California. Deputy Sheriff Eric Andrew Thach died Friday in the line of duty for his Riverside County community. We send our condolences and prayers to his family, neighbors and the community.

Eric Thach was 34 years of age and employed with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for three years, since September 1996. He leaves behind his young wife, Evelyn, and daughter, Shana. He also leaves behind neighbors and a community that will miss his constant self-sacrifice, generosity and quiet demeanor. And, now those left behind must pull together to support and strengthen each other during the coming months and years as they heal.

"Deputy Sheriff Eric Thach lived his life with strength and courage. He was a good man, taken from us too soon . . . He will live on in our memory and in the many respects paid to him by the community," stated Riverside County Sheriff Larry D. Smith.

Eric Thach's sacrifice will be further remembered as his name is engraved next to the names of three fellow officers, also felled in the line of duty. The marker sits outside the Riverside County Sheriff's Department as a reminder to us all of the selfless duty for law enforcement officers assume as they protect the people or Riverside County—a sacrifice that we often take for granted. As Madam de Stael once said, "We understand death for the first time when he puts his hand upon the one whom we love."

The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial, though, says it the best, that "it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived." Many of us can not truly understand the latent danger associated with the day to day routines of our law enforcement officers. They put themselves in the line of danger everyday as they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a suspicious circumstances—like Deputy Thach. The danger and violence they face day in and day out is very real and it is times like these—sadly—that make us stop and honor our law enforcement officers. We hope that they be given such honor, respect and thanks always—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed. Deputy Eric Thach lived his life with this constantly in the forefront and his memory can be best served by us all doing the same.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that you and our colleagues join us today to remember this fine deputy. On behalf of the residents of Riverside County, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MAN- AGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2723) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to share with my colleagues the stories of families in my District who have needlessly suffered in the absence of a real Patients' Bill of Rights.

I want to share with you a story that happened to one of my constituents in what is believed to be the first real brittle bone disease case in Orange County that has gone to trial.

Imagine this man's horror when his son was taken away and given to Child Protective Services because of alleged child abuse. This child was not abused, the child had an incurable disease that was mis-diagnosed.

It is unfathomable to me that the system, which is here to protect patients, would use outdated methods to diagnose this disease, have the patient suffer and not have Patient Protection Legislation for the worst case scenario to safeguard them from medical incompetency.

Since I came to Congress, I have listened closely to the managed care reform debate. I have also read the newspapers, seen the polls, and continue to hear the horror stories.

This past weekend, I did what every member of Congress should be doing; I heard from my constituents.

I learned that my constituents do want reform and do want some type of "Patients' Bill of Rights." They want Congress to initiate reform and to keep the interest of the patients in mind.

My constituents believe that HMO's are the future of healthcare, but they want to make sure that care is put above profits.

The Democratic Patients' Bill of Rights returns medical decisions back to America's families and their doctors. It is based on proposals endorsed by America's family doctors.

Any bill we pass is going to affect each one of my constituents, millions of Americans, and thousands of Orange County residents. But only the Democratic bill will cover all 161 million Americans with private insurance.

The American public cannot continue to afford the absence of Managed Care Reform. But the worst thing we could do is pass legislation that puts consumers in a worse situation than they are today.

That is exactly what the Republican piecemeal managed care legislation would do. The Republican proposal is a minimalist bill that stops short of offering real Patient Protection Legislation.

We need to pass Managed Care protection legislation and we need to pass it in this Congress.

HONORING JOHN BARONE AS HE IS
NAMED WEST HAVEN ITALIAN-
AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand today to join with the

community of West Haven, CT, as they honor my dear friend, John Barone, as Italian-American of the Year.

This weekend is special to Italian-Americans across the Nation. We join together to commemorate the historic voyage of Cristoforo Colombo and celebrate the strength of our heritage. Colombo's determination, hard work, and courage led the way across the seas for millions to follow. These immigrants—our parents and grandparents—had little more than hope and determination, yet they built the strong, vital communities that have become the backbone of Connecticut and our great Nation. Each year, the West Haven community honors a member who has demonstrated this same leadership and courage. This year, that man is John Barone.

John has been a driving force in the West Haven community since he and his wife, Ann, first made their home here 48 years ago. John illustrates the vital difference an individual can make in a community. Through his years of dedication to the Italian-American Club and his unflinching efforts to improve the quality of life for the families of West Haven, John has always endeavored to help his neighbors in any way that he could. With his ever-present cigar, and accompanying smile, John's warmth and compassion have become a true source of inspiration and comfort to our community.

John has spent his life preserving and promoting the strong values of Italian-Americans—hard work, family and neighbors, and the importance of keeping our traditions and heritage alive. Last year, I had the opportunity to join family, friends, and over 100 community members who gathered to dedicate the West Haven Beach Bocce courts in his honor. Bocce is a game that combines strategy, skill, and determination. Carrying the true spirit of Italian culture, it is played in Italian-American neighborhoods across the country. John's love of bocce is well-known. His determination to create easy access to the game for the residents of West Haven, and dedication to bringing them together to share and enjoys a game that has its origins in 19th century Italy is truly characteristic of John. Today, these courts provide endless hours of enjoyment for people of all ages from dawn until dusk.

John is an extraordinary individual who has spent his life striving to improve the quality of life for all members of the West Haven community. He is a true friend and I am proud to rise today to recognize his accomplishments and join with family, friends, and the West Haven community as they name him this year's Italian-American of the Year.

IN HONOR OF GREGORY "GQ"
JOHNSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with a heavy heart grieving for Gregory "GQ" Johnson, a nineteen year old resident of Cleveland Ohio. Young Gregory Johnson died of complications of diabetes in September.

Gregory "GQ" Johnson was an exemplary young man. As a member of the City Year

Cleveland Public Service Program, he dedicated much of his time and energy to tutoring younger children. Gregory especially liked to work with withdrawn or overly aggressive children. Through his inspiration and devotion, many of the children he helped became more focused on the studies and some even began to confide in him. Gregory Johnson was one who could be trusted and relied on. The time he spent with the children he helped will be remembered and cherished.

Gregory will be greatly missed. My distinguished colleagues, please join me in remembering and honoring Gregory "GQ" Johnson, a very special young man who dedicated his life to teaching others.

A TRIBUTE TO RECENT INDUCT-
EES TO THE SWIRE COCA-COLA
MAVERICK HALL OF HONOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ron Bell, Bob Engle, Jeff Russell, and Shawn Smith who were all inducted into the Swire Coca-Cola Mesa State Maverick Hall of Honor last week. These individuals have shown just what can be achieved through hard work and dedication and are most worthy of this coveted distinction. It is with this that I would like to now honor each of these distinguished Mesa State alums.

It is a rare feat to hold a National record for more than a year in any track and field event. Ron Bell held the National record for the javelin throw for forty years. His throw, back in 1959 measured 207 feet, 1½ inches. He did this not with a personal javelin that he had practiced with many times, but one that he borrowed from the opposing team. Bell, who is now sixty years old, has had many athletic achievements in his time ranging from the 1958 Mesa Junior basketball team which was the first to compete in the junior college national tournament to earn a spot on the Brigham Young basketball team.

Bob Engle is a man who has given years of service to his country in the United States Army. His achievements, thereafter, are the stuff of legend. His two year stay at Mesa Junior college had numerous highlights. He was twice named to the Topps district All Star Team, was awarded a spot on the All-Junior College World Series team in 1969, and in 1970 he was an All-Region XVIII selection. After stays on the Baltimore Orioles and the Toronto Blue Jays, he worked his way up the scouting ladder to his current position in the Blue Jays office as senior advisor of baseball operations.

Rarely do you hear of someone being a four-time All American in any sport. Jeff Russell was the only four-time All America athlete at Mesa State College in two sports. He placed fifth in the nation in wrestling in 1988 and third in the nation the following season. More recently Russell has received honors for his work as a police officer. In 1994 he was named American Legion Officer of the Year.

Heralded as the "best basketball player ever at Mesa State College," Shawn Smith led the